

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 02796 011432Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 COME-00 AGRE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07
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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4659
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOSCOW 2796

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, UR, SOCI
SUBJECT: FOOD SUPPLIES IN RIGA AND TALLINN

1. TALLINN: SURVEY OF TALLINN'S OUTDOOR MARKET FEB. 25 AT 0930 REVEALED LIMITED SUPPLIES OF EVERYTHING BUT APPLES, OF WHICH LARGE QUANTITIES WERE AVAILABLE, PRICED FROM R 1 TO 20K. PER KILO. POOR-LOOKING MUTTON SOLD FOR R 1.50 - 1.90, PORK AND PORK FAT, R 2.90, VEAL FOR R 3. SOME FARMERS HAD BROUGHT IN CHICKENS WHICH THEY WERE SELLING PRIVATELY FOR R 5 AND UP. OTHER THAN APPLES, ONLY FRUITS WERE MOROCCAN ORANGES, FOR R1.40 CARROTS SOLD FOR 50 K. PER KILO, ONIONS FOR 80 K., BEETS FOR R 1, CABBAGE FOR R 1.20 PER HEAD, GARLIC 10 K. APIECE. PICKLES AND HONEY WERE FOR SALE, BUT THERE WAS NOTHING ELSE (INCLUDING POTATOES). LOCAL CONTACTS TOLD US THE FOOD SITUATION HAD NOT BEEN GOOD, BUT THEY UNDERSTOOD SUPPLIES WERE CONSIDERABLY BETTER THAN IN RIGA.

2. RIGA: TIME DID NOT PERMIT A MARKET SURVEY, BUT LOCAL SOURCES SAID THERE HAVE BEEN PERIODIC SHORTAGES OF MEAT IN RIGA FOR MORE THAN SIX MONTHS. CURRENTLY, POOR PORK BRINGS R 6 PER KILO, BONY BEEF R 5 AT A FARMERS' MARKET AT THE EDGE OF THE CITY. SOME FATTY MUTTON WAS AVAILABLE LAST SUMMER, NONE NOW. (EMBOFF CHECKED LARGE
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DOWNTOWN STATE STORE AND THERE WAS, INDEED, NO MEAT.) WE WERE TOLD A LOCAL KOLBASA PROCESSING PLANT FORMERLY WORKED ONLY DAYS TO SUPPLY LOCAL NEEDS; NOW LOCAL RUMOR HAS IT THAT THE PLAN WORKS DAYS AND NIGHTS, AND STILL NO RESULTS ARE APPARENT ON LOCAL SHELVES. SOME FISH IS AVAILABLE, BUT IT IS ALL FROZEN, AND FROM THE ATLANTIC OCEAN, NOT THE BALTIC, TO LOCAL CHAGRIN. FRUITS AND VEGETABLES,

WE WERE TOLD, ARE IN SHORT SUPPLY, BUT NOT MUCH LESS THAN
NORMAL DURING THE WINTER MONTHS.
TOON

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Reason:
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